



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL-12TH GRADE

SUMMER 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

September 1
First Day of School -
Secondary

September 2
First Day of School -
Elementary

September 7
No School, Labor Day

September 18
Back to School BBQ

October 2
Elementary Jog-A-Thon

October 9-12
No School, In-Service/Fall
Break

November 6
No School, In Service

November 12
Veterans & Grandparents Day

November 13
No School, Conferences

November 23-27
No School, Thanksgiving
Break

WELCOME TO COLUMBIA

By Carrie Rude

ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

Choosing a school is one of the most significant decisions a family can make. The choice is about much more than academics – it's about finding a place where each child is known, encouraged, challenged, and guided to become the person God created them to be.

For nearly 80 years, Columbia Christian School has partnered with families who desire an education rooted in Biblical truth and academic excellence. We believe every child is uniquely created by God with incredible purpose and potential. Our calling is to nurture that potential by helping students grow in faith, character, knowledge, and wisdom while preparing them to impact the world for Christ.

What makes Columbia different? It begins with our mission. Everything we do is centered on developing students who know and love God, think critically through a Biblical worldview, pursue excellence in their studies, and serve others with compassion. Faith is not simply one subject in our school day – it is woven throughout every classroom, every conversation, every lesson, and every relationship.

Families also choose Columbia because of our caring community. Our teachers invest in students far beyond the classroom, building meaningful relationships that help children feel safe, valued, and inspired to grow. In a culture where children can easily feel overlooked, our students are known by name, encouraged in their gifts, and supported through every stage of their educational journey.

Parents consistently tell us they appreciate the partnership they experience at Columbia. We recognize that parents are a child's first and most important teachers, and we consider it a privilege to come alongside families in reinforcing the values and faith they are cultivating at home. Together, we seek to prepare young people who are equipped not only for college and careers, but for lives of faithful leadership and service.

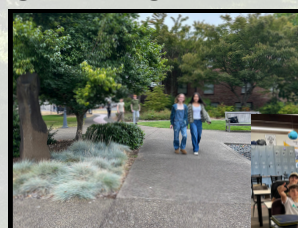
(Story continued on page 6)



FAITH



CHARACTER



ACADEMICS



Willy Wonka Jr.

Columbia Christian Drama Dept.

By Carrie Rude

ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

Lights, Camera, Chocolate! Audiences were delighted by Columbia Christian Drama Department's production of Willy Wonka Jr. this past spring! From the energetic choreography and catchy songs, to the fun costuming and well-constructed set and lighting arrangement, it was a show that truly entertained. To keep things interesting and showcase the variety of talents involved, this program featured six performances with the main cast and two performances with the understudy cast. Favorite elements included the humorous exchanges between the bed-sharing grandparents, the dramatic exits of all the "bad" kids, the "wise" advice from the Oompa Loompas, the thrilling rowing sequence down the chocolate river, and of course – the quirky humor of Wonka himself!

Director Sam Schultz reflected on the program, "I am always grateful for how excited kids get about a show. That enthusiasm is contagious and makes the rehearsals that much more fun, and the show that much better. I'm also delighted by the way the kids can surprise me, whether it's a new actor who is absolutely bringing it, or a veteran who is showing me something I've never seen before. There comes a time during every show when the kids finally feel comfortable playing. It's exciting to see the moments they come up with or the lines that are improvised. A specific example is during the shrinking room scene when all the parents/kids are ad-libbing, Anaiah gave Mrs. Beauregard the line "Violet, sweetheart, you're stepping on my foot." And it was hilarious."

Schultz continued, "So many people supported this production, and there are too many to list, but I am grateful to the behind-the-scenes production coordination (Mrs. Rude with concessions, Mrs. Barrett with posters and programs, Mrs. Walthinsen with costumes and parent coordination), set and tech design, construction, painting, etc. (Mr. Carver, the Preuits, Mr. Walthinsen), and the costumes and props team (Mrs. Estacio, Mrs. McLeskey, and Mrs. Stewart). Thanks for your many contributions!"



Celebrating the Class of 2026

By Pearl Howarth

REGISTRAR / COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELOR

On a beautiful evening filled with gratitude, worship, and joyful celebration, Columbia Christian School proudly honored the graduating Class of 2026. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty, alumni, and supporters, the graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, marking the culmination of years of academic achievement, spiritual growth, and faithful perseverance.

The ceremony reflected the heart of Columbia Christian School—a community committed to developing students who pursue excellence in faith, character, and academics. Throughout the evening, those themes were woven into every aspect of the celebration, from inspiring student leadership and worship to heartfelt messages from school leaders and faculty.

The program featured a special song led by CCS students, a welcome from Student Body President Madison Loggins, a valedictorian address by Sophie Sibert, and an inspiring commencement address by Bible teacher Jace Schwartz, who challenged graduates to continue living lives rooted in Christ as they begin the next chapter of their journeys.

One of the evening's most meaningful moments came during the presentation of Columbia's annual special awards. These honors recognize students whose lives have reflected perseverance, Christ-like character, leadership, and academic excellence throughout their years at CCS.

This year's recipients included:

Timothy Award: Zale Hren

Spiritual Leadership Award: Anaiah Martin

Mr. Columbia Christian High School: Jasper Zapp

Miss Columbia Christian High School: Madison Loggins

Another highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Oregon State Seal of Biliteracy, recognizing students who demonstrated exceptional proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in two languages. Congratulations to Sophie Sibert, recognized for biliteracy in Spanish and English, and Lana Muffenbier, recognized for biliteracy in Armenian and English.

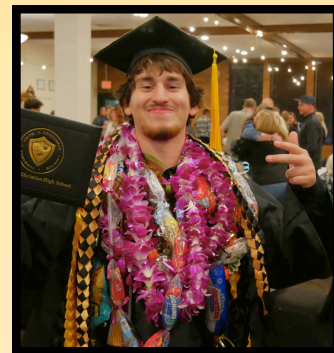
This prestigious distinction reflects both academic excellence and the value Columbia places on preparing students to engage thoughtfully with an increasingly interconnected world.

Following the conferring of diplomas, faculty members Sam Schultz and Clara Brandt offered a moving blessing over the graduates, reminding them that while life will bring challenges beyond their own strength, God remains faithful to sustain and guide them. Their message beautifully reflected the school's desire that every graduate leave Columbia not only prepared academically, but firmly grounded in Christ.

As graduates moved their tassels from right to left, they officially became alumni of Columbia Christian School—a milestone representing years of learning, growth, perseverance, and lasting friendships.

While the Class of 2026 will soon be serving Christ in colleges, careers, ministries, and communities across the country, they leave behind a legacy that has strengthened Columbia Christian School. We celebrate their accomplishments, thank God for His faithfulness in their lives, and look forward with anticipation to the ways He will continue His work through each of them.

Congratulations, Columbia Christian School Class of 2026! We are proud of you, we are praying for you, and we can't wait to see where God leads you next.





MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

What a season for Middle School Track and Field!

Our Knights showed out at the District meet with stellar performances across the board. A special shoutout to 8th grader Theo Rude for taking 1st place in Discus, and 8th grader Wren Preuit, who punched a ticket to the Oregon Middle School Championships while shattering 3 school records (100m, 200m, and 400m) this season! Way to go, Knights!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year so memorable!



SPRING TRACK RECAP HIGH SCHOOL

By Kevin Yaws

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

To God be the glory! This year's high school track season was marked by perseverance, resilience, and outstanding achievement. We took 17 athletes to the state championships at Hayward Field in Eugene, competing in 14 events and earning a 4th-place team finish for our boys!

Highlights included Jasper Zapp breaking the school 200m record for the second time this season with a 22.18-second run, surpassing a record held by Columbia alumnus Mike Lawrence since 1966. At the state competition, Jasper secured 3rd place in the 200m and 2nd place in the 100m. Hayden Arthur won 1st in the Javelin and placed 8th in the 100m, while Landon Reid earned 2nd place in the Discus.

Our boys' 4x100 relay team of Oliver Rude, Hayden Arthur, Evan Bamford, and Jasper Zapp overcame adversity to capture 2nd place. A key moment came in the triple jump, where Evan Bamford delivered a personal-best leap of 39'6" on his final attempt to earn 6th place and secure crucial points that helped the team finish 4th in the state.

Other competitors included Abram Votrobeck in the 3000m, Evan Bamford in the triple jump, and Landon Reid in the Shot Put. Two of our alternates stepped in to compete in the 4x400: Evan Bamford, Habti Lampi, Abram Votrobeck, and Jasper Zapp.

On the girls' side, Meili Ton competed in the 100m, Nozomi Carver in Pole Vault, Kianni Lotz in Javelin, Caeley Saunders placed 9th in Shot Put, and our 4x100 team took 8th place with Nozomi Carver, Mikaela Kurkinen, America Poole, and Meili Ton.

Congratulations to all our athletes and a heartfelt thank you to our coaching staff, including Coach Carline, Coach Rude, and Coach Erin, for an incredible season. Way to go, Knights!



SUMMER FACILITIES PROJECTS

By Eli Dukes

FACILITIES DIRECTOR

While summer brings a quiet pause to our hallways, it is one of the busiest times of the year behind the scenes at Columbia. Our facilities team and partners have been hard at work over the break, completing a series of campus-wide improvement projects. From smart sustainability upgrades to refreshed learning spaces, these enhancements ensure our campus is safer, more welcoming, and more efficient for our students, families, and staff.

Smart & Sustainable: Energy Efficiency Upgrades

We are constantly looking for ways to be good stewards of our resources. This summer, two major projects were completed that will enhance our facilities while significantly cutting utility costs:

Gymnasium Lighting Refresher: We installed modern, highly efficient light fixtures alongside advanced light controllers in the gym. This not only brightens up athletic events and other gatherings but also slashes energy consumption.

Smart Irrigation Systems: New high-efficiency irrigation controllers were installed for both the athletic field and the Davis Garden. These smart controllers optimize watering schedules, keeping our green spaces vibrant while drastically reducing water waste and lower utility bills.

Curb Appeal & Campus Enhancements

First impressions matter, and we want our campus to reflect the warmth and pride of our community the moment you step foot on school grounds:

Burnside Entrance: Visitors arriving at the E Burnside entrance will be greeted by fresh, updated entry signage and beautifully refreshed landscaping. New basalt columns were added to complement the basalt fountain in the Womack Courtyard.



Johnson Center Upgrades: To protect and preserve our facilities, new roofing was installed over the Johnson Center entryways. Inside, the Johnson Center bathrooms received brand-new countertops.

Caring for Our Classrooms & Youngest Learners

A clean, tailored environment is essential for a great learning experience. Across campus, dedicated effort went into deep maintenance and functional improvements:

Deep Cleaning: Classrooms throughout the Outlaw Center and Sanders Hall underwent rigorous deep cleaning, ensuring sanitized, fresh spaces ready for a high-energy year of instruction.

Child-Friendly Restrooms: In the Outlaw Center, we installed new child-height toilets specifically designed to offer greater independence and comfort for our younger students.

Ready for an Incredible Year Ahead

These summer projects represent more than just standard maintenance—they reflect our commitment to creating a safe, functional, and beautiful environment where our students can grow in Faith, Character, and Academics.

A huge thank you to everyone whose hard work made these summer transformations possible! We cannot wait to welcome our school family back to campus.



A Season of Traditions

By Carrie Rude

ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

Each spring, our senior class graduation is the primary focal point, but here at Columbia Christian we are intentional to host many memorable events to celebrate the successful conclusion of the school year. These traditions are important for our school community – from the youngest preschool students to the oldest high schoolers, and all our family and friends too!

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN HONOR NIGHT

What a joy! Mrs. Waldrop and Miss Bishop, preschool teachers, and Mrs. Haney, kindergarten teacher, presented their students with special awards; the children endeared us with performances of delightful songs and memory verses too.

ELEMENTARY BANNER NIGHT

Class banners were marched into the auditorium in a lively processional by our first through fifth grade students before they were presented with honor awards, enjoyed a photo slideshow, and received words of blessing and reflection from their teachers.

8TH GRADE PROMOTION

Our 25 middle school grads were ready to say goodbye to junior high and hello to high school! The 8th grade class put together a meaningful promotion ceremony including an entertaining photo slideshow, thoughtful student speeches, and a presentation of awards and certificates.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

In the final weeks of school, students from 6th grade through 12th grade were recognized by their teachers and administration for their academic accomplishments and evidence of growth in faith and character.



WELCOME TO COLUMBIA

CONTINUED FROM COVER STORY

As you read through our newsletter, you'll catch a glimpse of life at Columbia – from classrooms filled with curiosity and creativity to athletic competitions, performing arts, service projects, field trips, and celebrations that build lasting memories. Every story reflects something bigger: a community committed to helping students flourish academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally.

Whether you have been part of the Columbia family for many years, or are just getting to know us, we are grateful you're here! Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school and the remarkable ways God continues to work through this community. We invite you to discover what so many families have found – that Columbia is more than a place to receive an education. It's a second "home" where students are encouraged to grow in wisdom, live with purpose, and become all God created them to be.

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ DINNER
ALL-BEEF HOTDOGS | CHIPS | DRINK

\$5 EARLY BIRD RATE THRU 9/13

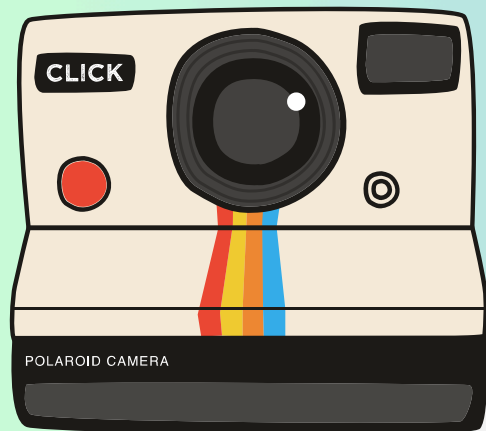
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
5:30-7:30PM
SOCCER FIELD & COURTYARD
(BRING YOUR CHAIRS OR BLANKETS FOR SEATING)

MEAL TICKET PRICING
\$5 Early-Bird Rate (Thru 9/13)
\$7 Regular Pricing (On/After 9/14)

FRIENDS FOOD FUN

QR Code





Good Times & Great Memories

Summer 2026



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BLESSED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DURING OUR SPRING DAY OF SERVICE.



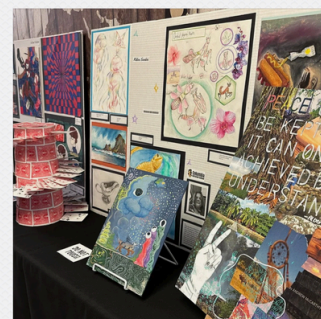
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTY ON CAMPUS UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT DURING THE SPRING MIDNIGHT MADNESS EVENT.



OAKS PARK DAY IS A SPECIAL TRADITION FOR OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS EACH SPRING.



COLUMBIA STUDENTS SERVED ONCE AGAIN AT AGAPE VILLAGE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING DURING THE LOCAL MISSION SERVICE DAYS IN JULY.



MANY UNIQUE TALENTS ARE ON DISPLAY DURING OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW.



OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH FUN ACTIVITIES DURING ELEMENTARY FIELD DAY.



THE JUNIOR/SENIOR BANQUET WAS HOSTED AT BULLWINKLE'S FAMILY FUN CENTER THIS SPRING.



EASTSIDE AND METRO CHURCHES OF CHRIST HOSTED AN AREA-WIDE YOUTH HANGOUT & WORSHIP ON CAMPUS IN JULY.



THE OVERNIGHT RETREAT WAS A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOLERS -- INCLUDING A SLEEPOVER ON CAMPUS!



OUR PLAYGROUND PLAY DAYS PROVIDED A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO RECONNECT THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.



5TH & 6TH GRADE STUDENTS LEARNED AND DEVELOPED IMPORTANT SKILLS THROUGH THE BIZTOWN PROGRAM AND FIELD TRIP.



A MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER TO BUILD A CHURCH AND HOST A VBS PROGRAM IN OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, INCLUDED 16 STUDENTS FROM COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN.

Supporter Spotlight

Excerpts from an interview WITH BONNIE MILLER



BONNIE MILLER - Friend of Columbia

The first time I was even aware of Columbia's existence was the summer of 1964 before my senior year in high school when Bill Banks, the Dean of the school, visited my church in Sacramento one Wednesday night to do some fund raising and student recruitment. He told how the school had recently been in dire straights financially and was going to have to close because they owed a bank loan of \$10,000 that was due the next day and there was no money to pay it. The faculty prayed, sang a hymn and went out to pack up their classrooms. The next morning a stranger entered Bob Rowland's office, introduced himself as a lawyer and explained that he had a client who, for tax purposes, needed to make a charitable donation. "Could your school use \$10,000?" he asked. I made up my mind right then that that was where I wanted to go. I wanted to be part of a school that lived on faith. Many years later, I had the opportunity to interview Bob Rowland and he repeated and verified that story as authentic.

My only regret about attending Columbia Christian College was that it was only a 2-year school at that time. I would have loved to have spent all 4 years of college there. Instead, I finished my degree at Pepperdine, got married to a boy I had met at CCC, and returned to Columbia where I had a job waiting for me as director of public information. I also taught journalism and language arts and advised the yearbook and student newspaper. During my employment there I was responsible for everything that was printed – from the daily mimeographed faculty/staff announcements to the major capital gift campaigns and everything in between – posters, fliers, newsletters, news releases, etc.

Three years later, I quit and began working at the Vancouver Church of Christ for an area wide TV campaign Vancouver elders were overseeing called "Impact for Christ." We showed a Herald of Truth film

on KPTV for a week and had a live panel of preachers to answer questions viewers could call in to ask.

The next year it was moved under the oversight of the Linwood church elders so I commuted to Milwaukie and then the following year it became a weekly radio show. I quit that in 1975 to have a baby. We had been living in Portland during all those years, but when my husband got a job in Vancouver, we moved across the river in 1978 and I was immediately invited to become the church secretary. I declined and continued to decline until 1981 when I began working part time for the Vancouver church. Over the next 30+ years I was blessed to work with dozens of great preachers, youth ministers and leaders of the churches in the Northwest through TLC, GNEW, Faith Quest, retreats, lectureships and other area-wide events.

And eventually, due to a friendship that developed with Jerry Rushford, I was even invited to participate in lecture programs at Pepperdine, Lipscomb, York and write a book about single women from the Restoration Movement who went to Japan as missionaries in the early 1900s.

Through my children, my connection with Columbia has continued over the years as both KC and Chelan attended the school from kindergarten through college after it became Cascade. I taught adjunct at Cascade and have been involved with Women for Columbia, Holiday Fair, the auction, reunions and other events. The "school of brotherly love" has indeed remained in my heart. Many of the friends I made in the college are still among my closest friends. Attending Columbia was probably the most significant event in my life.

I knew CCC was unique the first day I registered for my college classes. Students were lined up in the hallway of the Ad Building waiting to see the dean, arrange their schedule of classes and pay the registrar their tuition when suddenly, spontaneously, some of the students started singing, "If the skies above you are gray, sing and be happy today." I knew I had come to the right place. It was that closeness, faith openly expressed and love for one another that permeated the campus from the students to the faculty and administrators, who often missed regular paychecks.

After my tenure as Vancouver's secretary, I moved to Beaverton where my daughter and son-in-law lived and he preached for the Westside church.

(Story continued on page 9)

Teacher Feature

Mr. Donnie Alcatraz
CURRENTLY TEACHES:
Pre-Algebra, Contemporary Math,
& Integrated Math I



THOUGHTS ON TEACHING:

My approach to education emphasizes learning through connections. Connections between mathematical concepts, connections across subject areas, and connections between teachers and students. Rather than focusing only on memorizing procedures, I try to help students understand why concepts work and how they fit into a larger framework of knowledge. At the same time, I try to create a classroom environment built on trust, care, and mutual respect.

BACKGROUND:

I graduated with a BS in Mathematical Science from Columbia Christian College in 1991. While at Columbia, I met and married my wife, Noelle, almost 39 years ago. I have a son who attended Columbia from Pre-K through twelfth grade. I build and repair computers and spend a lot of time with my dogs, Neville and Minerva.

TEACHING FOR 37 YEARS AT COLUMBIA

FAVORITE VERSE

Be completely humble and gentle: be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Within a year, I was asked by the elders to become the church secretary. That was 11 years ago. I have half-jokingly said I plan to be the oldest church secretary in the churches of Christ. I may get there yet.

I worked with Jerry Rushford as his research assistant when he wrote Christians on the Oregon Trail and have recently completed the manuscript he requested me to write on the history of the Restoration Movement in Washington State. He has plans to have Pepperdine publish it.

It was significant that we were able to send both of our children to CCS and the college. It took a lot of loans, scholarships, and sacrifice to accomplish it, but it was well worth it. At a time when home life was deteriorating due to my husband's illness, the kids had a stable environment every day where they were loved, accepted, and encouraged in their faith. I am so grateful that Columbia reinforced the Christian foundation provided by the church and home. These are the formative years when decisions are made that will impact the rest of their lives.

One of my high school teachers gave me advice that I have tried to follow. She said, "You come from good homes. You have been given a good education. You know right from wrong and good from bad. But do you know good from best? And will best always be your choice?" I can look back over the past 60 years from the first time I set foot on Columbia's campus and honestly say, I made the best choice.



CHELAN MILLER (METCALFE)
Class of 2001 - CASCADE COLLEGE
BONNIE MILLER - Friend of Columbia

Vensel's Voice

By Ami Vensel

SCHOOL PRESIDENT

Celebrating Achievement - Strengthening Community

As we look back on the 2025–2026 school year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many ways God has been at work in our Columbia community. From theater productions and athletic competitions to awards ceremonies, graduation, and classroom celebrations – each event gave us the opportunity to pause and celebrate not only our students' accomplishments, but also God's faithfulness throughout the year.

Our school theme last year, "Overcome Evil with Good" from Romans 12:21, challenged us to live out our faith each day with courage, kindness, humility, and integrity. Throughout the year, we were encouraged to see students embrace this calling in meaningful ways – serving others, choosing compassion, demonstrating resilience, and seeking to honor Christ in both the big moments and the small everyday connections.

Moments like these are a powerful reminder of the eternal value and purpose of Christian education. While we love to celebrate academic success, artistic expression, and athletic achievement, our greatest purpose is to help students know and love Jesus more deeply. Every lesson, conversation, chapel, game, rehearsal, and classroom experience is an opportunity to shape hearts, build character, and point students toward Truth.

Walking alongside our students and families in this journey is one of the greatest blessings at Columbia – and in the work and ministry of Christian education.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing at Columbia Christian. Your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and partnership help create a community where students feel safe, become known, and are loved, challenged, and supported as they grow closer to Christ, develop strong character, and pursue excellence.

As we look ahead to a new school year, we do so with grateful hearts and hopeful anticipation. We trust that God will continue to guide our students, strengthen our community, and use each of us to fulfill His purposes. We are excited for all that He has planned and thankful for the opportunity to continue this journey together as a school family.

ATHLETIC SPONSORSHIP

Partner with the Knights

Columbia Christian is looking for local businesses to stand alongside our school as advertising partners — and we'd love for yours to be one of them.

With banner space available on our athletic field fencing and inside our gymnasium, your business gets consistent visibility in front of families, students, staff, and visiting teams at every game, practice, and event — all year long.

More than exposure, it's a partnership. Every banner helps fund our athletic programs and supports a school community that shares your values: faith, integrity, and investing in the next generation.

Why advertise with us?

- High-visibility placement seen by hundreds of families and visitors
- Year-round exposure at games, practices, and community events
- Show your support for Christian education and local youth
- Affordable sponsorship packages, with options for the field or the gym

Reach our community.

Support our school.

Contact us today to learn more about becoming a Columbia Christian Knights advertising partner.



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